

## **Judiciary Committee**

### **SB 1108 - The Zero-Tolerance Safe School Environment Act March 20, 2015**

**As a school superintendent in Connecticut for the past sixteen years, and as the Newtown Public Schools superintendent, I applaud Senator Hwang's understanding of the disruption that takes place when threats are made to schools and further applaud the proposed legislation of SB 1108.**

**I have witnessed both an uptick in frequency and intensity with this issue especially over the past few years.**

**I sense a righteous indignation attitude from the perpetrator.....catch me if you can!**

**I feel strongly that every local police department needs to have a highly sophisticated technology crime division to appropriately do the investigation, and when the perpetrator is apprehended a penalty of great significance must be waiting....thus my support for this bill.**

**I have seen schools become paralyzed with fear from such calls.**

**I have held community forums after our schools have been disrupted and parents consistently share their child's personal story of anxiety, fear, and trepidation.**

**In October and November of this school year our district was victimized by threatening calls. I need not say more as I am certain each of you know what that means in Newtown; however, I am also certain that whether the call be to Newtown or any other district the act is heinous and there must be vigilance leading to an arrest and appropriate consequences.**

**I thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts.**

**Respectfully,**

**Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Newtown Public Schools**

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